

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject application, in light of the remarks below, are respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-33, and 68-72 are pending in the application. Each of these claims is under consideration.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-33, and 68-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ono (US 6,727,303) or Hashimoto (US 6,780,917) in view of Pfaendner (US 5,859,073) or Hudson (US 6,077,890), in view of Jackson (US 4,287,325), Morris (US 4,525,504), Light (US 4,578,437), Funasaki (US 4,956,407), Carico (US 4,972,015), Golder (US 5,032,631), Dickerson (US 5,656,715), Minnick (US 5,919,848), Webster (US 5,965,261), Cornell (US 6,054,551), Cobb (US 6,100,320), Jones (US 6,103,857), Aylward (US 6,187,523), Keep (US 6,277,905 B1), Panandiker (US 6,284,845), Opalko (US 6,469,083), Moskala (US 6,551,688), Jeon (US 6,342,579), Agnici (US 2002/0045022), or Pierre (US 2003/0045022).

The rejection should be withdrawn because it does not comply with the Office's policy for considering and determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is the Office's policy to follow *Graham v. John Deere Co.* and to perform the four factual inquiries enunciated in that decision. MPEP § 2141 at 2100-116.

The rejection in this case, however, falls far short of complying with the Office's policy. For example, the rejection fails to set forth the difference or differences between the cited references and the rejected claims. MPEP § 2141.02.

Moreover, the rejection fails to show how the cited references when combined teach or suggest all of the recitals of the claimed subject matter. MPEP § 2142 at 2100-125.

In light of the above deficiencies, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments, withdraw the rejections, and pass the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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